THE IDIOT ASYLUM

Scurvy Destroying the Inmates of the Randall's Island Institution.

FOURTEEN DEATHS REPORTED

Anne Daly's Startling Story Told Under Oath.

The old proverb "Man proposes but God disposes" has, perhaps, been seldom better illustrated than in the sudden exposure which has overtaken the officials power at Randall's Island, more particularly those arged with the care of the unfortunate idiot chilfren of this place. In the past month indefinite rumors have reached the city that owing to the neglect butus of the most destructive character had been mmitting sad ravages at the Idiot Asylum during the winter months, and that owing to the criminal indifference of those in authority many of the children at this institution had fallen victims to this disease, a malady that is now almost unknown in every properly conducted establishment in the United States. Sourcy is the result of insufficient diet, more particularly vegetable food, and, according to all edical authorities, a "preventable disease" in the widest acceptance of the term.

To inquiries by the writer the following statement were made on the authority of visitors to the institution and others who had no interest in keeping this disgraceful condition of affairs from the public, even though they had to encounter the anger and dislike of "the powers that be." The facts are as follows:-

A TALE OF MISERY. During the past winter, as early as the beginning of December, the idiot children at the institution on Randail's Island have been affected with scurvy, and even at the present time several cases of this disease ocovering) are in the Pavilion Hospital of the institution. From the statements of those who were in a position to know it seems that the physicians were entirely ignorant of the presence of this malady for a considerable time, until even after several of the urses had openly stated that the idiots were suffering from scurvy. Gentlemen who visited the asylum state that they saw the children in the hospital with their bodies, more particularly their lower limbs, covered with black spots, their mouths all ulcerated and sore, from which there was a discharge all the time. The bodies of these unfortunates were yellowcolored and emaciated-so much so that even the children that recovered were unable to take any exercise for a considerable time. As will be seen from an affidavit covering the entire question, published below, information as to this truly shocking condition of affairs reached New York through the agency of a ell known gentleman of the city, who reported to the State Board of Charities that some action ought to be taken if the disease was to be arrested and lives saved. During the winter months the idiot children had an insufficient supply of food, and that of the very poorest quality. In many instances, according to the statements made, there was not a sufficient amount of bread; stinking bones, from which no meat could be cut, as there was none on them when given for dinner. The soup was chiefly made from the scrapings of the table and crusts of bread, and it is stated that very often the idiot children were obliged to do with this stuff for the principal meal, the "bill of fare" being a thing that only existed in the imagination of the offi-stals, and had no real existence, at least so far as the children were concerned. Under this favorable condition to the spread of disease the scurvy made rapid progress among the inmates. still it is charged that nothing was done to stop the spread of the maiady. In fact, so completely was the real condition of affairs hidden from view that many of the officials did not know of the existence of the disease until a number of deaths had taken place. For three weeks one of the idiot girls was kept in her ward, yet during this time she was aying from scurvy, and had every symptom of the disease in a most marked condition. At last, when the nurse who had charge of the ward saw that she was near death, she asked the steward for God's sake to tell her what she would do if the girl died in the ward. The facts of the case were reported to Dr. Howard, the Medical Superintendent, and he sent one of his assistants to look after the girl, and on finding the condition she was in the Assistant Physician ordered the idiot girl to the hospital, where she had to be taken on the nurse's back. No one could be got to help to transfer her. The unfortunate girl died nort day in the hospital, her body blackened with spots, limbs cramped and swoiten, emaciated and with all the disgusting mouth and throat symptoms of a neglected case of taken place. For three weeks one of the idiot girls The unfortunate girl died next day in the hospital, her body blackened with spots, limbs cramped and swollen, emaciated and with all the disgusting mouth and throat symptoms of a neglected case of scorbutus. According to statements made by several responsible people the physicians did not see this case until a day before the unfortunate idiot girl's death. The following is the description of scurvy given in "Wood's Practice of Medicine," a standard authority on all medical subjects:—"Scurvy may be defined to be a disease in which the blood is deprayed and the system dobliliated, with a tendency to hemorrhage, petechiae and to local congestion, a feeble and imperiect infiammation in various parts of the body, especially in the gums, and without any necessary lebrile complication." The symptoms given are:—"A sensation of weariness and aching in the imbe, swelling, redness and tenderness of the gums. With the advance of the disease the face becomes paler and assumes a somewhat sallow or dusky hue, and often a degree of puffiness; the lips and tongue become pallid, and contrast atrikingly with the gums, the breath is offensive; purplish spots of blotches appear upon various parts of the surface, beginning usually on the lower extremities, and afterward extending to the trunks, arms and neck, though sendom sificating the face. Occasionally portions of the surface look as if bruised, without having suffered any violence. Hard and panned tumefactions occur in the caives of the legs, among the muscles of the thigh, stiffness and contractions of the other, stiffness and contractions of the unface look as if bruised, without having suffered any violence. Hard and panned tumefactions occur in the caives of the legs, among the muscles of the thigh, stiffness and contractions of the one of the superior of security tallies exactly with the cases at the idiot Asylum on Bangerous, and the patient sometimes dies suedenly upon rising from bed or upon being conveyed without great caution from one situation to another." The forego

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

The following is the statement of Mrs. Anne Daly, a nurse employed seven years in the later asymmeths woman was the first to report the dreadful condition of affairs, after which, feeling that she would be dismissed "for telling the truth; I had children of my own and was afraid to see the idiots die before my cyes," ane sont in her fesspantion to the Commissioners, which took effect the end of March:—

my own and was afraid to see the idiots die before my cyes," she sent in her fesignation to the Commissioners, which took effect the end of March:—

New York, May 20, 1872.

My name is Anno Daly. I have been employed under the Department of Public Charities and Correction on Randair's island, at the Idiot Asylum, for the past seven pears. During the menths of December, January, February and until the latter end of March last the food supplied the children of the above named asylum was as follows:—Breakiast—Bread and very bad butter; coffee not unlike will water. Tes was sometimes given of the same quality. Cocos was very seldom given the innantes and was not better than the coffee. Very little sugar was given and frequently none at sil. Neither grits, homisy rice nor any of the other articles on the bill of fare were given the children. On Monday moranges a pan of rice was early to the daining come, but there was enly enough to supply four out of the nine tables, the others had to do without, and the food as marked in this has never been given the children. On Monday moranges a pan of rice was early to the daining come, but there was enly enough to supply four out of the nine tables, the others had to do without, and requently even the bread was scarce in the moralings. The ulmor consisted of some, thickenned with the trusts and leavings of the tables, and a very smatl quantity of carrots and a little meat. Sometimes only a lew greaxy somes that we could not cut any next from, and half the time the children had to do with the bread and only. There was little on the vegetables supplied during the include had the water. The food was not bread and for the children had to do with the bread and for the children were. Supper conclusions when we had a little on the vegetables supplied during the include was had water. The food was not bread and for the children was had water. The food was not bread and for the children was had water. The food was not bread and for the children were.

One of the idiot girls was kept in

mairon, who told her that she had no one to send with her The nurse had to take the idiet girl on her back to the hos nital, where she died at twelve o'clock next day. Where

Sworn to before me this 20th day of May, 1878, knward Saiff, Commissioner of Deeds. New York county.

RESULT OF THE EXPOSURE.

Visitors to Randail's Island state immediately on Nurse Daly reporting the true condition of afters at the Idios Asylum all the officials, male and female, suddenly discovered that she was a most unreliable woman and that she could not be trusted to tell the truth. Previous to the exposure and for the seven years that she served under the department expressions of the highest opinion as to both her honesty, ruthfulness and ability were given on all sides. Mrs. Daly's companions on the Island speak of her in the highest terms, as also do the religious ministers who visit there. Her story is in every particular like the statements made by several of the nurses at present employed in the institution. Many of them would be glad of the opportunity to speak publicly and openly but for fear of losing their positions.

The following extract from a communication to the Mayor protesting against the estimates of the Department of Charities and Correction for the year 1878 has the following reference to Randail's Island, which explains its present condition:—

RANDAIL'S ISLAND.

On the part of this small island which belongs to the elty

On the part of this small island which belongs to the city of New York here is a very large number of institutions containing various classes of immates.

First—A branch of the Ponitentiary, where prisoners from the Ponitentiary and from the Workhouse employed on the farm are lodged.

Second—The Infant Hospital, which contains 465 immates; women with their children and Workhouse women employed

Third—16104 Asylum School.
Fourth—160spital for girls.
Fifth—160spital for girls.
Fifth—160spital for girls.
Fifth—Asylum for incurable idiot boys and men.
Secenth—Asylum for incurable idiot girls. (in these last five buildings incre are 445 inmates.)
Eighth—A hospital for women to which patients from Charity India — A hospital for momen to which patients from Charity.
Finth—A hospital for men to which patients from Charity.

Forth—A public school building, in the attic of which the

Ninh—A hospital for men to which patients from Charty Hospital are sent,
Tenth—A public school building, in the attle of which the Workhouse women employed in all the institutions, except the Infants' Hospital, siece.
Elecenth—A building to which have lately been sent seventy-five insane men from the saylum on Ward's Island.
The medical officer who is superintendent of these various institutions, so far as they have any, receives \$1,200 a

year.

The large number of children on Randail's Island readers the presence of so many persons of bad or doubtful character and of infirm mind a great misfortune, especially so because heretofore there has been no proper supervision of them. As an example of the laxity of supervision the tollowing facts are suggestive:—An idiot upervision the following facts are suggestive:—An idiot man employed in the kitchen of the asylum school was not to be enceinte. The matron and bead teacher of the ool believed that the father of her child was one of the results of the Board of maisteners of Public Charities and Correction extending as his conviction that one of the idiot pupils was

discovered the nature of the disease from which the inmates of the ldiot Asylum on Rancall's Island authored three prominent physicians holding hospital appointments under the Commissioners were invited to visit the institutions on Randall's Island and report on the same. This was done and one of the visitors to the island has informed the writer that this report is now held in the Commissioners' office, to be used in case the real condition of affairs at the ldiot Asylum ever reached the public. The report in question, it is unerstood, praises in high terms the excellent condithe real condition of affairs at the idiot Asylum ever reached the public. The report in question, it is understood, praises in high terms the excellent condition of the institutions, compliments the efficials and makes little of the fourteen deaths that have taken place through the neglect, inhumanity and indifference of the officials. How much effect this valuable "report" will have in glossing over the fact that scorvy of the most mailgnant type has carried off fourteen helpless idiot children can only be told when the officials of the Department of Public Charities and Correction give it to the public.

WAR ON THE STENCHES.

The trial of Enoch O. Cue, proprietor of a fortilizing stablishment at Newtown Creek, L. I., and who is charged, at the instance of the Board of Health, with maintaining a nuisance, was continued yesterday before Judge Gildersleeve, in Part 2 of the Court of General Sessions. The prosecution was represented by Assistant District Attorney Bell and Colonel W. P. Prentice. At the sitting of the Court Colonel J. R. Fellows, the prisoner's counsel, moved for the discharge of his client on the ground that while the county of New York had jurisdiction over Westchester and Queens, it had no jurisdiction over Kings county. Counsel also moved for the discharge of his client on the ground of defects in the Indictments. The motions were decied. Several witnesses, including Professor Elwyn Waller, Mr. Nealis, Engineer or the Board of Health; Dr. Hamilton, Inspectors Hughes and McCauley, George Verham and Dennis Sulivan, and others gave evidence as to the foul character of the smells which, they said, emanated from Newtown Croex, where the defendant's factory was located. Mr. Fellows announced that before the termination of the case it was the intention of the defence to illustrate to the jury the process of the manufacture of fertilizers, in order to convince them that he had odors arose from it. The further nearing of the case will be resumed this morning.

The Grand Jury finished their inquiry as to the causes of nuisances uptowa, and have indicted twenty-nine proprietors of slaughter houses, bone and farendering establishments, and fertilizing concerns, situated on the North and East Rivers. Warnets were yesterday given to Detectives Field and O'Connor to arrest the parties indicted, but it is probable that on notification they will respond and give bail. Westchester and Queens, it had no jurisdiction over

SWILL MILK.

During the past week the milk sold by twenty-three lealers of Jersey City has been tested with a French lactometer by Health Inspector Cronin. In every instance with one exception the milk was below the second degree, and in eight or ten instances below the third negree, showing more water than lacteal fuld. The examination will be pursued throughout this week, and the Health inspector declares his de-termination to punish all offenders who have been once warned.

FIGHTING FOR PATRONAGE.

The patronage war between the Tammany Aldermen and the Commissioner of Public Works was recommenced yesterday. During the afternoon a City Hall for the purpose of discussing the best means to be adopted in the Board in view of the continued opposition of Mr. Campbell to the Tammany tinued opposition of Mr. Campbell to the Tammany organization in the matter of patronage. After a bail hour's season it was concluded to repeal an ordinance of the Common Council passed in 1875, giving to the Department of Public Works entire control of liconse permits in the business of sprinking the streets of the city. It is understood that in case such action is taken Commissioner Campbell can still regulate the matter, inasmuch as his department controls the use of Croton water for sprinking purposes, and if salt water were substituted the Board of Health would doubtless interfere. It is also said that all the street sprinking contracts have been given out, and it is doubtful whether they can be vittated by the action of the Aldermen. LAWYER AND PASTOR.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY CATLIN'S REPLY TO THE REV. MR. BUCKLEY'S ARRAIGNMENT-OBJEC-TION TO A PHILPIT REFERENCE.

General Isaac S. Catlin, District Attorney of Kings Brooklyn papers a letter, in which he stated that Rev. J. M. Buckley, D. D., paster of the Hanson Plac Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, had taken occasion, during the delivery of his sermon on last Sun reference to his action in the Johnson shoot ing case, and that he should give Mr Buckley prompt opportunity to establish the truth of his charge. It appears that Dr. Buckley, during his discourse, the subject of which wa "Causes of the Increase of Crime Among the Young. spoke of the different manner in which justice wa meted out to persons of wealth and influence and those who were poor. In this connection Dr. Buck the case of young Johnson, who shot his wife at his father's residence, No. 43 Monroe place, Brooklyn, some time since, and his consignment to the Bloom ingdale Insanc Asylum.

"The Prosecuting Attorney," said Dr. Buckley, "goes dist him with the expert. The young man well knew, ourse, why they came and why he was there, and then listrict attorney, elected on loud professions of reform ut as end to the pigeon-holing of indictments and all oth reactices of that kind, appears and takes the responsibility having the exse indefinitely postgoned! What! Whe criminal poor? Nay, if he had been he won

A STRANGE SCENE.

After Dr. Buckley had finished his discourse James McDermott, a politician, who interested nimself in the election of District Attorney Catlin, asked him if he would be allowed to make a statement.

Dr. Buckley replied that he could not allow any one to make a statement to public, but if Mr McDermott would see him at his house, and he had made an error in his statement, he would gladly qualify or retract it.

Mr. McDermott then said:—"You have made a statement which is not true. You have said that \$25,000 was paid in this case. That is not true and you know it."

There was surprise at Mr. McDermott's action, but

There was surprise at Mr. McDermott's action, but There was surprise at Mr. McDormoti's action, but no excitement. Alderman French, who is one of the ushers and chalfman of the Board of Trustees in the church, went to him and escorted him from the church in a quiet manner. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LETTER. In closing his letter General Cattin says:—

In speaking of Mr. McDermott yesterday General Catilus and:—"I told him this morning, however, in the presence of Judge Moore, that he was constantly getting himself and me into trouble by his interference with my affairs."

THE WANDERING JEWESS.

ETTA LIBSCHITZ'S COMPLAINT DISMISSED BY A POLICE JUSTICE

responsible person to superinteed them.

The foregoing extract tolis the present condition of Randail's Island. Mixed up together, without proper supervision, is a colony of idiots, criminais, insane and sick people, all occupying buildings in close proximity to each other. The unfortunates drag along in semi-idle existence.

It is stated on reliable authority that when the officials of the Department of Charities and Correction discovered the nature of the disease from which the Osip in the "Danicheffs." He was represented by his counsel, Mr. Oscar Bogert, while the complement's case was in the hands of Mr. Isaac L. Sink. As Mrs. Libschitz was utterly ignorant of the English language considerable difficulty was experienced in the examination, and an interpreter familiar with the patois of her native place nad to be sent for. Substantially she recited the account of her marriage and desertion as before published, and under a stric questioning insisted that she had been united to the defendant according to the Jewish law and in strict conformity with the laws as prescribed in Russian Poland. She said that at the time of her nuptials she Points. She said that at the time of her nuptials she was only seventeen years of age, and owing to the strange viciositudes she had passed through his later years much of her early recollection of names and alces had faded away. Accordingly she was unable to furnish the name of the rabbi who officiated at the ceremony, but said that among the witnesses was Ephraim, the shoemaker of Heisen, and another personage, whom she referred to somewhat indefinitely as the son-in law of Ruth. She said that her parents had desired to divorce her from her husband, but she had persisted in following his fortunes until he finally abandoned her, and then on seeking a divorce of her own tree will be had refused it, and said that he would consent to such an arrangement only on the payment of 200 roubles. While Postmaster of the Province of Ivanorak he bad acknowledged her to be his wife, and agreed to pay a knowledged her to be his wife, and agreed to pay a rouble per day for her board there, but had later on relused to observe his ongagement, and had entirely discarded her.

At this point Counsellor Bogert began a cross-exam-

discarded her.

At this point Counsellor Bogert began a cross-examination which developed some curious imformation touching the practices of the Polish Jews. The complainant stated that prior to her marriage with the deciondant she had been united in wedlock to another man and diverced from him, but all this had been done at her parents' behost and so conducted that she was not only oblivious as to the circumstances and time of the ceremony, but was even unaware of the name of her dirst husband. According to her account she had been a mere child at the time, and the marriage rites had been performed only to be nollified soon after. Such unions, she seemed to intimate, were common in her native place, and the religious divorce which was there recognized by the law as valid was in general operation.

The atory of the defence was not detailed to the Court, but it was minimated that he denied an actual marriage with Etta. He claims that at a merrymak high in the village of Heisen, he and the defendant were brought together and were deemed a proper couple to weed. He was only twelve years old at the time, but the village of Heisen, he and the defendant were brought together and were deemed a proper couple to the the time of the place, arranged that the Bridai should take place as soon as the young man attained his seventeenth year. He says that prior to his reaching that age be left the place and became a Christian, The complainant, however, swore that an authentic marriage had been as a Christian, the complainant, however, swore that an authentic marriage had been as a Christian, the complainant however, swore that an authentic marriage had been as a Christian, the complainant however, the state of the place and became a Christian, the complainant however, the defendant is now living in wedlock with another woman. If the marriage with Etta was legal, Sachs was guity of bigamy, and a complaint for that effence should be made against are and the last marriage unified.

In fine, the Judge referred the complainant to a

BROOKLYN COMMON COUNCIL.

At a stated session of the Brooklyn Board of Aldernen yesterday afternoon, President Fisher in the chair, a very lengthy communication was read from the agent of the New York and New Jersey Globe Gas Light Company, offering to light the street lamps G.s Light Company, effering to light the street lamps for five years, and to clean, maintain and keep in repair all lamps, so as to effect a local saving to the city over the present rates of \$665,600 in three years. Alderman French offered a resolution directing the Board of City Works to enter into a contract with the company. After a lengthy discussion the resolution was adopted. Corporation Counsei W. C. De Witt sent in an ordinance relating to dogs, requiring that the owners should be compelled to pay a tax of \$1 for each dog. Owners are also to have the dogs muzzled, and when on the streets they must hold them by a rope not more than four feet in length. The Mayor is directed to appoint dog catchers, and the police are to shoot all unmuzzled dogs caugat on the streets between June 15 and septembore 15. The ordinance was laid over for future consideration.

REFORMED PRESBYTERIANS.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD YESTER-DAY-APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES AND DELEGATIS.

The General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church met in the Twellth Street Church yesterday torenoon after an adjournment of forty-six hours, Moderator A. G. Wylie in the chair. A number of delegates had passed the Subbath in Philadelphia and a few of them failed to reappear at the opening hour. In all, there were somewhat over forty members pres ent when the religious exercises began, at ten o'clock The subject of discussion and prayer was "Sabba Schools and the Baptized Youth of the Church." Rev. James Scott was the speaker. At balf-past ten the roll and the reading of the minutes of Sat-urday's session. A committee was appointed the Moderator to report on certain papers submitted on Saturday in regard to the prop ration of a digest of the proceedings of the General Synod for publication. The members of the committee are Revs. R. C. Miller, H. H. McMillan, Alexander Kerr, Alexander Wood and the stated clerk of the Synod, with his assistant. The committee appointed to examine the records of the Northern Pres bytery presented a favorable report, which was ap-proved. The Synod thee adjourned until half-past two o'clock P. M., to allow the Board of Domestic Missions and various other committees an opportu-nity to transact their respective business before mak-

ing their annual reports.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

The half hour of devotional exercises in the afternoon was devoted to prayer for kev. Mr. Young, paster of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pettsburg and his destitute congregation. Mr. Young, who is still a young man, has been stricken by paralysis, and his flock is thus left without a shepherd.

The report of the Board of Education set forth the necessity of requiring every candidate for its assistance to present a certificate of regular standing as a student of theology, and asked the assistance of the churches in maintaining its students. A report was made approving of the records of the Pittsburg Presbytery.

The Board of Superintendents of the Theological Seminary made a favorable report of the condition of

Seminary made a flavorable report of the condition of that hostitution. Four students, who had not graduated at any university before entering the Seminary, were credited with one year's study and referred back to their respective presbyteries that they might receive a college education.

NUMBERING THEIR FORCES.

The following resolution was introduced:—
Resolved. That cleaves of residence he required to make out.

Resolved. That clerks of ressions be required to make our upon transmit to clerks of presbyteries at or before the next prine menting forces yteries, full she accurate statistics of their courts of their courts of presbyteries be equired to labulate these reports to a yound.

and transmit to clerks of presbyteries at or before the next spring meeting of presbyteries, tail and accurate statistics of their congresations, and that cierks of presbyteries he required to tabulate these reports to synod.

Considerable discussion followed the presentation of this resolution, those who favored it arguing that it would alt greatly to the case of levying contributions from the Church congregations, besides fulfilling the more direct purpose of accertaining the numerical forces of the Reformed Presbyterian Church it was opposed on the ground of impracticability, a similar attempt in the past having utterly failed. The resolution was finally passed and a committee appointed to prepare a form of blanks to be used in carrying out its provisions.

A resolution was introduced condemning the growing desceration of the Sabbath in this country in imitation of European customs. Excursions by sea or land, dinner parties, driving in the parks, the transaction of secular business, the reading of works of fiction and other methods of ignoring the sacred character of the day were protested against in the resolution. A delegate from Pittsburg thought the resolution. A delegate from Pittsburg thought the resolution. A delegate from Pittsburg thought the remaining of trains on Sunday and the compelling of employes to work one-ball or the whole of the day was the most important question in regard to the subject. He spoke in particularly severe terms of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and said that he did not wonder that it had been visited with the terrible scenes of last year. "In the flames which arose from the burning car houses at Pittsburg," said he, "I read in the handwriting of God the words, God's punishment on a wicked, Sabbath the subject of violating the Sabbath the special order of the day at this aiternoon's session of the synod. The following nominations were made by the Committee on Nominations.—Board of Foreign Missions—Revs. W. Wile, J. Kendali, W. J. Smiley, Dr. Steele, Alexander Savage, M.

PRESBYTERIANS.

MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NORTH-ERN BRANCH. Pertsnung. Pa., May 20, 1878.

The Presbyterian General Assembly met at nine o'clock this morning. Elder Robert Carter, of New York, conducted the religious exercises. A narrative was presented and referred to a committee.

Dr. Allison delivered an address in answer to the proposition of Dr. Patterson, of the Philadelphia Presbytery, to modify the Apoatles' Greed by siriking out the clause stating that Christ "descended into nell." He answered the points in Dr. Patterson's address of Saturday, and urged the Assembly to decline to change the wording of the creed, which had stood without modification for 1,500 years. The report of the Committee on Publication was read and approved. The committee approved the recommendation for printing the report on the relations of the Church to the German people of the country. Dr. Schenck, Secretary of the Board of Publication, made an earnest address on the work of that Board. He said the Church must awaken to the necessity of counteracting the influence of unscriptural literature with which the country is now fleeded. esbytery, to modify the Apostles' Greed

THE SOUTHERN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

KNOXVILLS, Tenn., May 20, 1878.
The Presbyterian General Assembly, South, resumed its sessions at nine o'clock this morning. Christian greetings, received from the General Con ference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, now in session at Atlanta, Ga., were read and reforred for answer to the Committee on Foreign Corre spondence. The report of the Judicial Committee on

apondence. The report of the Judicial Committee on the complaint against the Symod of Kentucky was adopted, and the case made the special order of the day at three P. M.

A resolution was adopted expressing confidence in the workings of the American Bible Society, and arging ministers and churches to co-operate with and aid it by collections.

A delegate appeared from the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, but masmuch as this Assembly had no official knowledge of such a body and was not in correspondence therewith, such delegate was not formally received.

An interesting discussion was held in answer to an oversure asking the Assembly to take action in regard to "unchristian language in papers published by parties in our church," which overture recites that if such language is used the remedy hos with the Presbytery or church session. After a spirited discussion and amendment offered, the whole subject was laid on the table.

and amondment offered, the whole subject was into on the table.

An answer to an overture, which was adopted, pro-nounces that a vote by the majority of the Pressy-teries, in accordance with the constitution, would es-tablish the adoption of the proposed book of church order and government.

METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 20, 1878. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcop Church South to-day adopted a long report from the Committee on Education, which looks to the more perfect support of all church educational institution and attacks the aceptical tendencies of the day.

Rev. C. D. Fors, fraternal delegate from the Meth odist Episcopal Church, took formal leave of the Conference. An appropriate response was made by Bishop Rev. Alexander Clark, Rev. F. H. M. Henderson and

Rev. Alexander Clark, Rev. F. H. M. Henderson and Rev. G. R. Barr, fraternal delegates from the Metho-dist Protestant Church, took leave of the Conference, Bishop Doggett responded.

During the afternoon session there was a warm de-bate on a proposed increase in the number of appoint-ments in the presiding elder's district. The limit was at last changed from fourteen to twenty.

The proposed centenary of American Methodism will be held in Baitimore, in 1884, instead of in Boston.

SUNDAY LABOR

At the Baptist Pastors' Conference, vesterday, Dr. Buringame, of Brooklyn, read a paper on the distinction between sentiment and principle in religion, which was discussed at some length by the brothren of holding Sunday workers as members in churches.

His church is discussing it and is inclined to take a mand against such members. It has several car conductors, milkmen and others in its members hip who have one Sunday. Dr. Samson, Mr. Potter, Dr. Reld and others spoke on both sides of the question. Same or them instinged that such labor is a necessity. Mr. Potter was carecially emphatic in saying he rode in

the cars on Sunday and bought milk for his children, and thought it was a crime of lesser degree, if crime it was, than to advertise in the Sunday papers and then boy the papers to see that their amouncements were inserted. Dr. Reid announced that he bad a brewery agent in his church, and the alternative was given mm to get out of the Church or into some better business. He chose the latter. Dr. Swan, of Newark, feared that many so-called Christian men were bondsmen for the saloons that keep open in that city every Sabbath. Something ought to be done to stop Sabbath desceration, but just what the Baptist Pastors' Conference could not decide.

DECORATION DAY.

Great preparations are being made upon Staten Island for Decoration Day, the 30th. A committee of the Board of Supervisors, with Erasius Brooks and Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, a company of Hawkins Zouaves and a portion of the Ninth regiment, who will visit the island on that day to decorate

of Hawkins Zouavee and a portion of the Ninth regiment, who will visit the island so that day to decorate
the graves of their departed comrade. A committee
of the Rankin Post, G. A. R., of New Brighton, has
been appointed to receive contributions to derray the
expenses attending the decoration of the graves. The
friends of the deceased soldiers are requested to mark
the last resting piaces of the dead with the American
flag, as heretotore much difficulty has been experienced in fluding the graves.

The preparations for the observance of the day in
Brooklyn are of a more extensive character than
usual. For the first time since the inauguration of
the custom of strewing with flowers the graves of
fallen soldiers and gallors the National Guard will
participate in the parade. The Fifth Brigade has
been ordered to take part in the ceremonies. The
tomb of the prison ship martyrs on Fort
Greene and the Lincoln Monument at Prospset Park will be decorated under the auspices of Rankin Post, No. 10, G. A. R. The line
will be formed at twelve o'clock M. on Moutague
street, and separate Troop cavalry, the Thirteenth regiment and Fifteenth battainn, will act as escort.
General Cathn will be Grand Marshal, Major General
Joseph Hooker has been invited to take part in the
exercises on Fort Groene at two o'clock P. M. Rev,
Henry Ward Beecher will deliver the oration at the
Park. Rev, J. W. Chadwick will give the invocation
and General Moineaux will preside.

At Greenwood Cemetery Dr. Farley will read a
poem, and the Ninth regiment, N.G.S.N.Y., has been
invited to Brooklyn to autend the services. Rev Dr.
J. P. O'Connell, of St. Michael's Church, will deliver
an oration at the Cometery of the Holy Cross, Flatbush. Chaplain Robert Anderson will officiate at the
Naval Cemetery, Flushing avenue. The clergymen
of Brooklyn have generally been requested to preach
memorial sermons on Sunday next.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE EXAMINATION.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE EXAMINATION.

The annual series of examinations in Columbia College for the senior, junior, sophomore and freshman classes was begun yesterday morning, and is to continue until Saturday, June 8. Most of the answers to the questions are "handed in" in writing, so that the proficiency of the various members of the classes will not be known until the papers shall have been read and reported on at the conclusion of the examinations. The "scheme" of examinations held yester day in the academic department is as follows :-

SENIOR CLASS-Twenty-six members, was examined in Greek by Professor Drisler. The class in calculus,

in Greek by Professor Drisier. The class in calculus, seventeen students, was examined by Professor Peck. Prizes of \$100 are to be awarded.

JUNIOR CLASS—Thirty-seven students, under Professor Rood, were examined in physics. Prize, \$100 scholarship in science.

Sophomore Class—Class containing seventy students, under Professor Shoot, were examined in Latin. Prize, \$100 scholarship in letters.

FRESHMAN CLASS—Seventy-three students, in mathematics, were examined by Professor Drisier. \$100 prize scholarship in science.

In the School of Mines there were examinations in chemistry, qualitative analysis, machinery and economic geology. A prize of \$100, known as the Torrey prize, is to be awarded to the second year students showing the most thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of assaying.

To-day examinations are to be held in physics, qualitative analysis, geology and mechanical engineering.

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CLASS COMMENCEMENT.

A meeting of the senior class of the New York University to make arrangements for commencement was held yesterday morning, Mr. A W. Ferris presiding, It was agreed to select the Academy of Music as the place and June 20 as the time for commencement to come off. Grafulia will turnish the music. The vale come off. Grafulia will lurnish the music. The valed dictory will be delivered by L. C. Whiton; Greek salutatory by A. W. Ferris; English salutatory by T. K. Satterlee; philose putcal orations, C. J. Conking, M. T. Rosenberg and R. B. Davis; orations generally by C. G. Buckley, J. E. Bult, ii. H. Spies, J. L. Kortwight, W. F. Cooley, S. L. Cooper, J. A. Attwood and M. W. Divine. The class supper will be caten on June 18, but the place for ithen suty yet been determined on. At the supper the class historian will be Clarence Manners, the poet W. F. Cooley, the prophot, C. J. Conkin and the song of the might will be written by L. C. Whiton.

RAPID TRANSIT.

NEARING THE OPENING OF TRAFFIC ON THE GILBERT ELLVATED RAILROAD. The work is still being rapidly pushed forward or

the Gilbert Elevated Ratiroad along the whole line of to Fifty-ninth street. There are now ever 300 workmen employed in the various branches of mechanical and other skilled labor necessary to the artist, who is designing and planning the station pavilions, says that the platforms and one flight of stairs are about completed on all but two of the stations. The additional flight of stairs required tions. The additional flight of stairs required for each of the fourteen double stations along the line are now completed in the workshops and will be raised into their piaces without loss of time. At Fourteenth street the enclosure and panel work are finished, and at most of the other stations the platforms are down and the framework for the pavillous in course of erection. At Twenty-third street the framework is up, and the men are recting that at Forty-second street. Mr. Cropsey says that the other stations are in a very advanced condition, and that the designs and drawings for the panels and plasters of the pavillous have been delivered to the from workers. In the drawing of his designs Mr. Cropsey is being aided by Mr. G. P. Powell, chief draughtsman to the Messrs. Cornell & Co., and a number of engineers, all of whom are hard at work in the designing and drawing department. Mr. J. Poster Crowell, of the engineers' department, said that it was the original intention to place a single guard rail outside the track so as to prevent any serious accident in case the wheel should jump the rail. A short time ago it was resolved to put on an inside guard rail as an additional precaution against mishap. When these two salety rails are in their places it is believed that the danger of accident will be lessened as much as possible, it is thought that by the 25th of this month the first passenger cars will go over the line. The laying of the additional safety rail will not, however, be completed in less than a lortnight; out this circumstance can hardly interfere much with traffic during the business and travelling Leurs of the day. The hours between ten o'clock P. M. and five o'clock A. M. can be devoted to finishing the laying of the inside guard rail. Probably one-half of this extra labor is now for each of the fourteen double stations along

ness and traveling hours of the ally. In hours of tween ten o'clock P. M. and five o'clock A. M. can be devoted to finishing the laying of the inside guard rat. Probably one-half of this extra labor is now completed, and the mechanics are at work on different sections laying down the other half.

The question as to what to do with the telegraph wires has been practically and satisfactorily noived, It has been determined to raise them at each station and carry them over the pavilions on appropriately designed conductors, letting them drop again after clearing the buildings, so as to continue clong the fine of poles in the usual way.

The interior and carpenter work of the pavilions is being constructed in the shops of Mr. R. Breeze, of Long tranch, so that the workmen will have only to place them in position at the different stations. Tomorrow the work on the outside of the Fourteenth street pavilion will begin.

BETRAYED BY A SNEEZE. St. Cecilia's Roman Catnolic Church, on the north

east corner of Second avenue and 195th street, has

for some time past received regular visits from an adroit thief, who, on leaving, always carried with him samples of currency or coin from the poorbox, which is fastened to a pillar near the central aisle, and wherein on public occasions the worshippers deposit their offerings for the needy and afflicted. Daniel Shifehin, the sexton, could not account for the their, as he invariably, in departing, locked the doors of the ametuary and examined the treasury box to see that it was well secured. He determined to keep a watch, and on Sunday night, in company with Policeman Ross, of the Iwenty third precibed, took up a position near the church and waited to see what would torn up. Their patence was rewarded toward mindight by a faint gimmer near the belify, and stealing to the rear of the edifice, a small, hitherto neglectes window was found to be open. The watchers entered by the same passage, nonsciessly as they supposed, but tound a deathrike silence overhauging the interior of the charch. A thorough scarch was then made, and though the money box was found to have been rified, no other trace of the thief could be brought to light. Another and more vigorous effort to unearth him followed without avail, and the investigators were moving toward the entrance firm in the conviction that he had got away, when a suppressed, but suddie "Ah, dau!" rong throughout the edifice. Following the direction of the sneeze Officer Ross, with some effort, thrust his hand into a small aperture near the organ, fasted out the game, and deciared the chase to be at an end. Mr. Shiflein recis fastened to a pillar near the central aisle, and

SILK CULTURE IN AMERICA.

THE COLO ED PEOPLE OF ALABAMA PROPOSE TO ESTABLISH THIS INDUSTRY IN THEIR

STATE.

While crazy dreamers in the North are filling the eads of foolish workingmen with the idea of bod ing rich by plundering their neighbors, a few colored people down in Alabama have set to work to point and p-acticable way to make themselves comfortable and independent. The means by which it the introduction of the silkworm culture, for admirably suited. This happy idea occurred some years ago to Mr. Samuel Lowery, principal of a colored school at Huntsville, Ala , and being a man of practical views be resolved to test by experiment the pos

MAKING A START. In January, 1876, he procured from a mac sam-d Theobald, residing in Nashville, 500 silkworm eggs, which in due time were but hed out. Only 200 of these proved fruitful; but, nothing discouraged, Mr. Lowery resolved to continue his experiment. From the cocoons spun by these thread were made by a very rude hand process. This thread, of course, was very inferior in quality, owing to the want of skill in its manufacture; but the raw material proved to be excellent. The thread resulting from this first experiment was exhibited at the Huntsville fair, and was awarded two prizes among the prominent citizens, and generous offers of assistance were made by some of the large landed

proprietors, who saw in the introduction of the new cultivation a source of wealth capable of weil night indefinite development.

Among those who take an active interest in the introduction of the salk worm culture is one of the anke bettem Governors of the State, Reuben Chapman, on whose caste Mr. Lowery's Industrial Academy is situated. This gentleman has granted a lease of twenty-inve acres of suitable land, on which are valuable buildings erected by the United States government at a cost of \$100,000.

A GENEROUS OFFER.

As a proof of his carnest deare to advance the interests of the colored people of his section Governor Chapman has offered to make a giff of the land and buildings to the Industrial Academy on condition that the promoters of the enceprise succeed in obtaining an endowment equal in value to the lands and buildings which he proposes to present to them. The lavorable reception which the scheme net with encouraged Mr. Lowery to continue his experiment. He succeeded during the year 1875 in natching 500 sitkworms, which produced an equal number of eucolosis. From these soline twenty shools of thread wore successfully sput. The difficulties in the way of success were very great, arising from want of experience in the cultivators and the absence of proper machinery for the winding off and splanting of the raw sik. In cases where the sinkworm carding wood, and hear it was been at the used in carding wood, and hear it was been and interior six the used in carding process could be advantageously applied in the manufacture of socks, crochet work, mixed and interior sik stuffs.

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FOG SIGNALS.

Since the seizure of the schooner Josie Crowley by the United States authorities for not sounding a bel when anchored in a fog, inquiry is frequently made relative to the requirements of the law governing such cases, as a large number of masters of sailing vessels had supposed that the blowing of a logborn, when at anchor, was only necessary. The law and regulations governing the same are annexed :-

regulations governing the same are annexed:—

Steam vessels under way shall sound a long blast of the steam whitle * at increas of not more than one minute - Section 4,233 kevised Statutes, and rule 4 iceneral degulations.

Sait vessels under way shall sound a foghern at intervals of not more than the minutes.

Steam and sait vessels, when not under way, shall sound a boil at intervals not more than the minutes.

Coal boats, trading boats, produce toats, canal boats, oyster boats, fishing basts, raths, or other water craft navigating any bay, or harbor, or river, by hand power, horse nower, sail, or by the current of the river, or anchorded, or moored in or near the channel or fairway of any bay, harbor or river, and not in any port, shall sound a foghern or equivalent signal.

moored in or near the channel of faltway of any bay, harber or river, and not in any port, shall sound a foghorn or equivalent signal.

These hast provisions, relating to coal boats, &c., are understood to refer more particularly to unrigged vessels and smail craft, ity the rules and regulations governing secamors, the Board of Supervising Inspectors, rule 10, General R guiations, require that when sheamers drift, or if at anchor, with steam up, in the fairway of other steamers, it shall be the duty of the priot to cause three distinct blasts of the steam whistle to be sounded, at intervals not exceeding three minutes. This tale having been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury has the force of law. As the statutes require the sounding of a bell, and the regulations the olowing of a whistle by steam vessels when at anchor, it therefore a sems that both these requirements should be observed. From the foregoing it appears necessary that both steam and still vessels should be provided with a bell, to be used when anchored in a log. The law does not designate the size or weight or the bell to be used, but it evidently is understood to be of the kind known as a "watch-bell," the size of which should be determined by the relative tonings of the vessel. There is no pennity for a vessel not having a bell on board, but should a vessel be nichored in a log, without sounding one, or engaged in navigation without the sound or other signals being given as required by law, the craft would never a pennity of \$200. It will be noticed, by some of the provisions, that an interval of "not more than nive minutes" should elepse between the sounding of the signals. This limit is considered too long for of the provisions, that an interval of "not more than five minutes" should chaps between the sounding of the eignals. This limit is considered too long for safety, and as there is no probibition against shorten-ing the interval it would be better to sound thom at least every minute, which is the general custom.

STREET DEPARTMENT HORSES.

Superintendent R. J. Wylie, of the Street Cleaning Bureau, was yesterday arrested upon a warrant assued by Justice Morgan for cruelty to animals. It appeared that on the 6th inst. Patrick Crotty, a driver of one of the department's dirt carts, was arrested for driving a nors; suffering from a sore on the back, under the saddle, unprotected from the harness. Crotty was tries in the Court of Special Sessions on Saturday last, and pleaded not golity on the ground that he not reported the condition of the horse on the morning of the day he was arrested to the superintendent of the stables, and was ordered by the latter to work the horse. He was defended by counsel, assisted by ex-Aiderman George W. Piankett, a deputy inspector of the Bureau. The Court found the prisoner "Not guilty," and instructed a warrant to be issued for the arrest of the superintendent of the stables, and Crotty was to be suppointendent of the stables, and Crotty was to be suppointendent of the stables, and Crotty was to be suppointed as a witness. Yesterday, before Judge Morgan, Wyine denies sil knowledge of the condition of the horse, although he did not deep receiving \$1,500 a year from the city for looking siter the horse of the department, and Crotty deciated that he (Wylie) was not the man who had ordered him to drive the horse in its suffering condition. "It was some other man in the office whose name he did not know," and in view of this evidence Wylie was discharged. tries in the Court of Special Sessions on Saturday

EXCISE VIOLATIONS.

Captain Oliver Cotter yesterday reported to the Brooklyn Board of Commissioners of Police and Excise twenty-two beensed saloon keepers for having, as he saloges, violated the Excise law by selling on Sunday.